REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1, 15, and 29-31 will be amended, claims 26-28 will be canceled, and claim 34 will be newly added. Thus, claims 1-25 and 29-34 will be pending. No new matter has been added. Support for newly added claim 34 can be found, for example, in the Specification as originally filed at page 8, line 29 to page 9, line 1. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

Previously pending claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,104, 700 ("Haddock").

As illustrated in FIG. 1 of the present application, multiple transmit buffers could be provided to store packets, each transmit buffer being associated with a different port (*e.g.*, P0 through P2). According to claim 1, however, a "single transmit buffer stores packets associated with a plurality of ports." Such an approach is illustrated, for example, by FIG. 2 of the present application (as revised) wherein a single buffer 232 stores packets for ports P0 through P2:

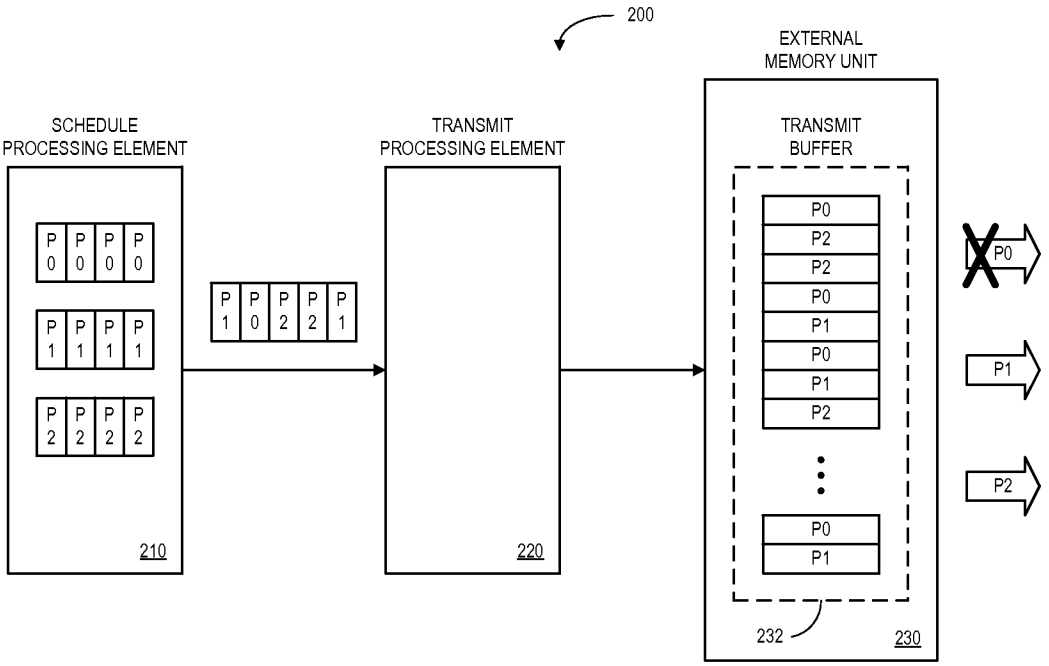

FIG. 2

Note that by providing a single transmit buffer for a plurality of different ports, the amount of information that can be transmitted through any particular port may be increased (*e.g.*, as described in the Specification as originally filed at page 4, lines 2 to 14).

Applicants respectfully suggest that none of the references, taken alone or in combination, disclose such an element.

In particular, Haddock is directed to a system to manage traffic within a network device. For example, FIG. 1A of Haddock illustrates a network switch 100 having multiple ports 105, 110. Note, however, that each port 105, 110 is associated with its own unique filtering/forwarding engine 115 (Col. 4, lines 13 to 15).

Moreover, the set of Quality of Service (QoS) queues 180 illustrated in FIG. 1B is not a "single transmit buffer stor[ing] packets associated with a plurality of ports" as recited in claim 1. Instead:

> A number of QoS queues 180 may be provided at each of the ports of a packet forwarding device.

Col. 6, lines 1-2.

Nor does Step 410 of FIG. 4 disclose "determining a packet to be transmitted via a port," "determining information associated with the port," and then "preventing the packet from being placed in a transmit buffer based on the determined information, wherein the single transmit buffer stores packets associated with a plurality of ports" as recited in claim 1.

Instead, at Step 410:

> [P]rocessing loops until the port associated with the group of QoS queues being evaluated indicates it is ready to receive the next packet for transmission. For example, the port may be polled to determine its transmission status.

Col. 11, lines 41-45. That is, a single port is simply evaluated. If that port is ready, a packet is selected and taken out of from one of its dedicated QoS queues (with the highest category queue given preference) and is transmitted (e.g., at Steps 430 through 480). This does not disclose or suggest preventing the placement of a packet into a buffer as recited in claim 1.

No other reference discloses such feature. Because this element is missing from all of the references, allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested. The remaining claims depend from claim 1 (or contain similar limitations) and should therefore be allowable for at least the same reason.

Moreover, newly added claim 34 recites "determining, at the transmit processing element, port status information indicating that the port is currently blocked based on a port status vector that indicates whether or not each of a plurality of different ports is currently blocked." Applicants respectfully suggest that none of the references, taken alone or in combination, disclose or suggest such multi-port status vector. This is an additional reason why claim 34 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0191.

Respectfully submitted,

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